

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 9, 2005

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: NPDES PERMIT RENEWAL: TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2005-0007; NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0107450; WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING OF LA JOLLA, INC.; SAN DIEGO COUNTY. (Tony Felix)

PURPOSE: To adopt a tentative Order that updates and renews the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit, Waste Discharge Requirements for Culligan Water Conditioning of La Jolla, Inc. for the existing water softener regeneration brine discharge to the Pacific Ocean.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The NPDES permit hearing notice was published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on January 7, 2005 for the Regional Board meeting scheduled for February 9, 2005. Copies of the tentative Order were mailed on January 10, 2005 to the discharger and to all known interested parties and agencies. The tentative Order was also posted on the Regional Board's website on January 11, 2005. Copies were made available for public review at the Regional Board office on January 11, 2005.

These actions served as the 30-day official public notification for this action, as required by Title 40, Section 124.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

DISCUSSION: Culligan Water Conditioning of La Jolla, Inc. (hereinafter Discharger) operates a potable water softening facility located at 970 Turquoise Street, San Diego, California.

The Discharger currently generates and discharges up to 3,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water softener regeneration brine and backwash wastewater to the Pacific Ocean via a city-owned storm drain and is currently regulated by existing Order No. 2000-15, NPDES Permit No. CA0107450. Order No. 2000-15 expires on February 9, 2005.

Tentative Order No. R9-2005-0007, *Waste Discharge Requirements, Culligan Water Conditioning of La Jolla, Inc.* renews Order No. 2000-15 in its entirety, and expires five years following its adoption by the Regional Board.

The Discharger reports in the permit renewal application that the discharge contains primarily concentrated sodium, magnesium and calcium chloride ions in solution. Since potable water is used as the source water for the regeneration process and no other pollutants are added to the discharge, the discharge is not expected to contain any other pollutants, including bacteria and organic matter.

The discharge of water softener regeneration brine and backwash wastewater to the Pacific Ocean is not expected to adversely impact the designated beneficial uses nor exceed the water quality objectives of the 2001 Ocean Plan.

Tentative Order R9-2005-0007 is the first NPDES permit in this Region to be formatted to follow a new standardized permit template under development by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The principal purpose of the new standardized format is to streamline the process of drafting NPDES permits and to provide better organization and clarity for users of the permit.

As of January 26, 2005, the Regional Board has not received any written comment regarding the tentative Order.

KEY ISSUES:

None.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None.

**SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:**

1. Location map.
2. Tentative Order No. R9-2005-0007
 - (i) Attachment A - Definitions
 - (ii) Attachment B - Facility Diagram
 - (iii) Attachment C - Wastewater Flow Schematic
 - (iv) Attachment D - Federal Standard Provisions
 - (v) Attachment E - Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - (vi) Attachment F - Fact Sheet
3. Copy of tentative Order transmittal letter, dated January 10, 2005.
4. Notice of Public Hearing

**COMPLIANCE
RECORD:**

The discharger has exceeded the effluent limitations of Order No. 2000-15 for pH on two occasions. The results for pH for samples collected on June 21, 2002 and May 22, 2003 were 9.11 standard units and 9.17 standard units, respectively. The Discharger has not had any violations since June 2003.

**SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES:**

1. Chronic toxicity shall be monitored one time during the first twelve months after adoption and once during the remaining 48 months of the five-year life of the permit.
2. The Discharger shall monitor pH weekly for the first 12 weeks after the effective permit date. After 12 consecutive weeks of compliance with the pH effluent monitoring, the Discharger shall revert to semi-annual pH monitoring.
3. Monitoring for total residual chlorine shall be conducted monthly for the first 6 months after the effective date of Order No. R9-2005-0007. After the first 6 months, monitoring for total residual chlorine shall be conducted semi-annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2005-0007, NPDES Permit No. CA0107450 is recommended.